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Manitoba

# ANNUAL REPORT

12:1984

Manitoba
Environmental Council

**Manitoba Environmental Council** *Box 139 Tuxedo Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3N 0H6*

March 1, 1985

The Honourable Gerard Lecuyer
Minister of Environment and
Workplace Safety and Health
Room 333 Legislative Building
450 Broadway Avenue
Winnipeg, MB. R3C 0V8

Dear Mr. Lecuyer:

I have the honour to present herewith Annual Report 12:1984 of the Manitoba Environmental Council.

This report details the Council's activities during the fiscal year ending March 31, 1984 and includes information regarding the Annual Meeting on May 12, 1984.

Yours truly,

A. C. Maniar

Dr. A. C. Maniar
Chairman

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# Chairman's Report

## Atish Maniar

The year 1983 - 1984 was very hectic, as we worked together without an executive secretary. The success of the programs for this year is entirely due to the hard work of all the chairpersons of the various committees and the membership of the Council. I wish to specially thank Mrs. Lily Stearns for her efficiency, hard work and interest in the Council's work. She was employed as an Administrative Secretary 2 on a part-time basis.

Following the in-depth review of Council by a consultant in 1982/83, it was decided to basically continue with Council's previous method of operation, with the exception of some recommended internal improvements.

I wish to publicly thank the Honourable Jay Cowan, our former Minister for Environment and Workplace Safety & Health for his interest and assistance. He was in constant touch with me regarding aerial spraying against mosquitos, when an emergency was declared last summer due to the spread of Western Equine Encephalitis. He participated in our deliberations actively and appreciated our contributions to the environmental cause.

In September 1983, I participated in a general consultation meeting called by the Honourable Jay Cowan. A booklet summarizing this consultation proceeding was published by the Department of Environment and Workplace Safety & Health in March 1984.

We welcomed Dr. Thomas Owen as the Deputy Minister of Environment and Workplace Safety & Health in early September 1983. Dr. Owen has a remarkable knowledge and understanding of the environment related problems and administration. He is an asset to our Council and I thank him for his help, sympathy and interest in our work.

The Honourable Gerard Lecuyer was named as the Minister of Environment and Workplace Safety & Health by the Premier of Manitoba in late November 1983. We were all very happy to receive him on December 3, 1983 at our semi-annual meeting. His address at this meeting was informative and I have found him to be a good friend of our Council. I wish to thank the Honourable Gerard Lecuyer for his efforts in arranging for two Council employees for the fiscal year 1984-1985.

The Council was represented at the Annual Meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council held on June 5 - 6, 1983 in Ottawa. I presented a paper on "The Role of Environmental Councils" on June 3, 1983. A report of our Council was also presented at this meeting.

Environmental Week — 1983 was celebrated from June 5 to 11, 1983. His Excellency, The Honourable Edward Schreyer, Governor-General of Canada, Howard Pawley, Premier of Manitoba, The Honourable Jay Cowan, Minister Responsible for Environment and Workplace Safety & Health and His Worship, Mayor Bill Norrie, City of Winnipeg, were present at the ceremony, bringing greetings to the public. Professor Basil Rotoff, Chairman of the Manitoba Environment Week — 1983, was the master of ceremonies. Eight prizes were distributed to the Cartoon Contest winners by the Governor-General and Dr. Atish Maniar. The exhibits for the Environment Week 1983 were displayed at Garden City Shopping Centre Mall in Winnipeg from June 9th to June 11th, 1983. The Manitoba Environmental Council had a staffed display booth during these three days.

The Semi-Annual Council Meeting was held on December 3, 1983 at the Planetarium Auditorium of the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature in Winnipeg. I am thankful to Dr. Robert Hecky and Mr. Michael Papst of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Fresh Water Institute Winnipeg, who gave interesting and informative presentations on "South Indian Lake" and the "Fishery Rehabilitation Program in Dauphin Lake". A lively discussion followed the above talks. I also wish to thank Mr. George Wurtak, Head of Education, and Ms. Marcella Moodie, Education Registrar, Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature, for the generosity of providing the auditorium at no charge for our annual meeting.

The Wildlife Committee, headed by Judge Jane Maurer, arranged a distinctive forum entitled "Manitoba Wildlife Into the 21st Century" on March 2nd and 3rd, 1984. This was the highlight of the 1983-1984 activities. A selection of prize-winning films on wildlife themes were shown on both evenings. Lectures and panel discussions by authorities on Wildlife from across Canada took part in this forum. It was an enjoyable and informative event for the participants.

Our Council was represented by 6 members to attend the retirement party in honour of Dr. George Bowen on March 29, 1984. Dr. Maniar paid a tribute to Dr. Bowen for his interest and continued help to the Council. He has been appointed an honorary member of the Council.

Council's Annual Meeting was conducted on May 12th, 1984 at the International Centre, 700 Elgin Avenue. Mrs. Elizabeth Wilcock, Executive Director of the Citizenship Council, had arranged for the pleasant facilities and extended the welcome and greetings of her Council to the participants. It was evident from the number and quality of briefs presented, the Annual Meeting was a very productive event.

During the year, we had active participation from the Regional Chairpersons as well as from the Chairpersons of the Technical Committees. The details of their commendable efforts are included in their annual reports.

I wish to express my appreciation to all chairpersons and members of the Standing Committees for their active participation and hard work. Mrs. Margaret Friesen functioned as the Secretary, as well as the Chairperson of the Membership Committee. I wish to thank her for taking these two tasks and fulfilling them most efficiently and amicably. I am grateful to Dr. Diane Malley for her support and for taking over the responsibilities in my absence.

# Vice-Chairman's Report

## Diane Malley

The year 1983-1984 was a turning point for the Manitoba Environmental Council. At its outset, Council faced a major decision concerning its future operation. It was solved satisfactorily by year's end, as Council firmly embarked on a new course. The May 1983 annual meeting had charged the New Board with implementing the general directions recommended by the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg's evaluation of the Council. A number of meetings took place during the year between the Executive and the Minister and Deputy Minister of Environment and Workplace Safety & Health, and with senior staff in the Environmental Management Division, (EMD). The implications of various operational alternatives for the Council were explored, ranging from that of a free-standing organization (either self-supporting or with a provincial government grant), to that of remaining with the Environmental Management Division. Eventually, the Board decided that remaining as an arm of the Environment Division would provide the Council the best opportunities of long-term stability.

It is gratifying in this time of cutbacks in the Provincial Civil Service, that the Council's full-time staff positions have been increased from one to two. We welcome Keri Barringer and Shelagh Finch to the positions of Co-ordinator and Secretary, respectively. We wish them a long and rewarding association with the Council. I would like to join the other members of the Board in thanking Lily Stearns for her conscientious work and dedication to the Council in performing organizational, secretarial and editorial duties during the year.

My responsibilities as Vice-Chairman commenced with attending the opening of Canadian Environment Week on June 5 in the Legislative Building, addressing on behalf of the Manitoba Environmental Council the opening of the Federal/Provincial Motor Vehicle Emission Testing Program at Grant Park Shopping Centre on June 8, and staffing the Manitoba Environmental Council booth at Garden City Shopping Centre during Environment Week. Basil Rotoff and I drafted Guidelines for the Preparation of Briefs by Technical Committees for the All-Technical Committees meeting on September 12. In Dr. Maniar's absence, I had the pleasure of chairing the Board meeting of January 11.

Other activities included preparing applications for four S.T.E.P. summer students. The Council was successful in receiving one student to work with the Environmental Chemicals Committee. A submission for Summer Canada Works for seven students to be associated with several Technical Committees unfortunately was not successful.

It has been a productive year for the Technical Committees. As the Executive member responsible for Technical Committees, I thank those chairpersons who have kept me informed of their meetings, activities and interests. It has been satisfying to see the Environmental Impact Assessment Committee re-established, to see the Land Use Committee expand and attract new members and to see the Energy Committee active. The Environmental Chemicals Committee, joined with Water and Waste for the year, maintained its record of high activity and high public visibility. The Education Committee continued its pattern of innovation in its public education role. The highlight of the Manitoba Environmental Council's business year was produced by the Wildlife Committee in its public forum, "Manitoba Wildlife into the 21st Century" on March 2 and 3. Not only did the Committee produce a fine event of interest to children and adults from all walks of life, but also has recorded it for future use on video and for publication.

It has been a pleasure to serve as an executive member of the Manitoba Environmental Council during the past year and to be a member of the Council as it enters a new phase of maturity.

# Minister's Address

## The Honourable Gerard Lecuyer

My appointment to the environment portfolio is very recent, as you are aware. It comes at a time when the Manitoba Environmental Council is at a significant crossroad. I am looking forward to the task of working with you and your executive in setting your future course of action. I especially welcome this opportunity to meet with you and to share some of my own environmental philosophy as well as say something about our future working relationship.

As a government, we certainly value the ongoing advice you have provided us with. From my perspective, I think a strong and positive dialogue has emerged over the years between the government and the Environmental Council and credit is due to all concerned. I am informed that you recently passed your tenth anniversary of service and I can assure you that we value the decade that you spent devoted to the environmental cause.

I think there is an old saying that bears some relevance here. Henry Ford is credited with saying:

> Coming together is a beginning;
> Keeping together is progress;
> Working together is success.

I think this applies very appropriately to the Manitoba Environmental Council. You have come together, stayed together, and worked together to get where you are today.

In the past decade you have made many deliberations with regard to Manitoba's environmental problems, and you have given your advice to five ministers. I will be the sixth minister to benefit from your advice. An unknown sage once said:

> To profit from good advice requires as much wisdom as to give it.

I hope that I may have the necessary wisdom to maximize the benefits from the Council's advice.

When the Manitoba Environmental Council was first put into place by the then Minister, Sidney Green, the world had just come through a period of unprecedented development and economic growth. Manitoba was caught up in that development surge.

While in the past, economic growth has brought extraordinary benefits, it was not always accompanied by sufficient foresighted efforts to guide its development. In many instances, jurisdictions failed to exercise adequate controls over land, water and other resource uses. From my perspective, however, I think people's views are changing each and every year. Governments, general public and industry, for that matter, are now becoming more and more concerned about environmental preservation and, in many cases, are willing to pay a higher and higher price. As a province, we benefit a great deal economically from a pristine environment. For example, tourism, wildlife and recreational activities and the like thrive and abound. It should be noted, as well, that industry is also interested in an unspoiled environment.

So, it should be stressed that there are definitely monetary gains to be made from environmental preservation. Unfortunately, in the past, this argument was not put forward very strongly and economic development and environmental control were seen as mutually exclusive entities. As more and more individuals are becoming informed, this outdated viewpoint is disappearing.

As a society, in the future we are going to have to place increasing emphasis on continual renewal of resources, recycling, reusing and recovering of products produced. Conservation of a natural area can mean its maintenance in a natural state for enjoyment or study in order to understand nature's complexities. But it also means preserving good agricultural lands for agricultural production, and good forest lands for timber production. It means setting aside other lands for recreational use. The best use of lands and resources must be carefully determined because once they are abused, they are costly to reclaim.

Unfortunately, in the past there was a popular misconception that air, water and soil were freely available for use as receptors for environmental emissions. When these elements of the environment were allowed to be used for free dumping of discharges, the true cost of goods produced or activities pursued were not accounted for.

Unfortunately in the past, as a society we have exploited the earth for profit, and then used it as a sink for our wastes as if we were not required to pay for the privilege. We do, however, have to pay! We pay the price of a degraded environment — in depleted resources, in productivity losses, in health effects and in aesthetic impairment. In very many cases, the cost of a damaged environment is borne by people other than those whose activities caused the damage to occur.

All of this musing about our past sins should not be taken to imply that if we are going to protect the environment for future generations we should adopt an anti-development stance. On the contrary, we can have both development *and* a protected environment. Probably one of the most pressing problems of the future will be to find ways to restrain environmental pollution without interfering with society's continuing effort to improve the quality of life. The relentless rise in human population necessitates an increase in output of products from industry. At the same time, we must guard against a proportional increase in the pollution of air, water and land. Essentially, pollution control should not mean the abandonment of existing productive human activities, but there should be a reordering of such activities to ensure that their sometimes undesirable side effects do not outweigh their advantages.

Public understanding of the relationships between environment and the economy needs to be better developed.

The costs of environmental improvements are likely to increase in the coming years, whether such costs are incurred by industries or

governments. The additional costs incurred by industries will be passed along to the consumers of goods in the form of increased prices. Government expenditures will continue to be borne by the taxpaying public. But, according to estimates that are presently available, the benefits of environmental improvement policies significantly outweigh the costs of such improvements. The people's willingness to pay for environmental improvement will hinge on public understanding that the dollar-value of benefits will outweigh the costs that are incurred. I believe that the Council can play a major role towards increasing public understanding of these relationships.

Your Annual Reports tell me that you have confronted some major issues; you have made studies, you have conducted forums, and you have encouraged public participation. You have engaged in more than a decade of very productive discussions about the environment. You have identified problems. There will be many more problems in the future. I know you will address them with equal enthusiasm and vigor.

I am aware that your semi-annual meetings generate resolutions which invariably reach their intended destination — the desk of the Minister. I note that your latest package of resolutions is broad-ranging, reflecting the broad interests of your Council's membership. Because of my personal association with the field of education, I was gratified to see a resolution dealing with environmental education. Your resolutions on pest control are timely, as this subject has a high profile among the many activities of my Department. We are placing much emphasis on our continuing efforts to develop methods for mosquito control which will be scientifically and technically sound and which will be more socially acceptable. Some of your resolutions transcend the boundaries of my Departmental purview, and I have solicited responses from appropriate cabinet colleagues, I have reviewed, just lately, the last of the Departmental responses, and I will transmit them to your Council at the earliest opportunity.

I have been apprised of the discussions that have taken place between your Board and Departmental Executive pursuant to the Organizational Review of last March. I will require some additional time to consider all the ramifications of your Board's proposal of November 12, and look forward to discussing this matter with you early in the New Year.

In conclusion, I would just like to say that I am looking forward to working with the Council in the future as we pursue our mutual goal of preserving Manitoba's environment. Thank you very much, and best success with your future deliberations.

* * *

Presented at December 3, 1983 Council Meeting

# Deputy Minister's Address

## Dr. Thomas H. Owen

I am personally very pleased to be here to address you for the first time. However, judging from the Minister's personal enthusiasm for the Council, this may well be the last opportunity to represent him.

I bring Mr. Lecuyer's regards. Unfortunately, he is unable to be here today due to a previous engagement in Edmonton which was arranged before he was notified of today's meeting.

First I would like to thank the Council for its perseverance over the last year. I can't say enough about the kind of co-operation the Department has received from the Council, as we worked through the difficult staffing and budgetting situation. The problems are entirely ours and I feel the Council,

through the Executive, has been more than reasonable and patient with the Department through this difficult period.

We now have in place an effective structure. My one regret is that Lily will not be staying on. I am sure you are going to miss her as I am going to miss seeing Lily at these meetings as well.

I was personally very pleased to find that Bill Kennedy's Committee had looked at rationalizing and trying to focus the activities of the Council in a different, and better way than before. I think that augurs well for the Department. There are some opportunities as I see it right now, the Council can take advantage of. In this province, at this point in time, we have open government and public involvement in virtually everything we do. The Council is the key to public involvement and therefore, I believe the Council's influence will increase once the new structure is fully functioning.

We have several major environmental issues that are coming up, issues that have been talked about for some time. I am thinking of specifically the aluminum smelter, the Limestone generating station, the Mandan power line. These kinds of projects will be considered and we will be looking for specific advice and recommendations on them.

There is no doubt, the present Minister strongly supports the mandate of the Council. I have worked with Mr. Lecuyer for 5 months, and there is no question that he has the background, and education, enthusiasm and experience required. As indicated earlier he is a very keen supporter of the Council. Environment and Workplace Safety and Health is a full department now and I think that is a key factor in terms of the Council's influence on government, generally through the Department.

In addition to the Council's traditional influence on the outdoor environment, you may want to look at the indoor environment. There is now more of a focus on the indoor environment through the workplace aspect, than ever before. Future advice and recommendations on indoor environment issues will be most welcome.

The item I would like to briefly address is the Council's resolutions. The most recent resolutions I have seen are the ones that are going to be considered this afternoon. One of the tasks of a Council such as yours is to ensure you are giving timely advice. There is no point providing advice to the Minister on an issue that was resolved 6 months ago, or on the other hand, on an issue that will not arise for 2 years in the future. There are four recent resolutions from the Environmental Chemicals Committee — herbicides and forestry; mosquitoes; aluminum cans; and water management, all of which are current issues which have not been totally resolved. At this point in time, these issues are being actively discussed with the Minister. Your advice will reach the Minister at exactly the right time.

In closing, I would like to say I am personally looking forward to working with you in the future. I've enjoyed the relationship I have had so far. I've particularly enjoyed the support of the Executive Board and I would welcome any questions you might have.

* * *

Presented at May 12, 1984 council meeting.

# Regional Reports

## Northern

### E.B. Johanson

The Norman Region encompasses approximately two-thirds of the Province of Manitoba, or that area being north of the 53rd parallel.

Matters relating to the environment, therefore, are numerous and varied, and because of the vastness of the area, together with the difficulties of communication and financial restraints, dealing with environmental concerns in an organized manner is made more difficult. This may explain why the following matters can only be touched on in a general manner.

1. Oil exploration in Hudson's Bay, as reported previously, again proceeded this past summer and appeared to be on a slightly expanded basis. This operation should be closely monitored in respect to environmental concerns relative to Manitoba's sea coast.

2. A feasibility study for a proposed gas pipeline from Roblin to Swan River has been commissioned by the Province. Interest has been expressed in extending this study further north, which should be monitored closely.

3. Manitoba Hydro is extending a 40 mile branch power line into the community of Pukatawagan. There appears to be little environmental concern at this time.

4. A development plan for the Thompson district was approved on April 5, 1983 with concern being voiced by the Wildlife Advisory Committee relative to the Northern Flood Agreement.

5. International Nickel is proceeding with its new open pit development in anticipation of closing down the Pipe Lake pit. Overburden is again being removed by a dredging and pumping process.

6. Developments in Clearwater Lake Provincial Park continue. A self-guiding Cave and Nature Trail was opened this summer. The tree nursery is proceeding on schedule. The harvesting of forest products within the Park is proceeding with Parks Branch and Resources Branch supervision. The Clearwater Lake Cottage Owners Association has been re-organized and it is expressing their concerns regarding leaking sewage lagoons, the use of firearms and hunting in the Park, lake water levels, and the use of leaded gasoline in outboard motors, together with numerous non-environmental issues. Preliminary work is now in progress to try and establish a chapter of the Manitoba Forest Association in The Pas and Clearwater Provincial Park.

7. Transportation of hazardous goods and storage of hazardous goods, as well as hazardous waste disposal remain a concern of the Town of The Pas. Hydro development to the west of the town in the Nipiwin area of Saskatchewan and on the Saskatchewan River may result in changes to water volumes and qualities in The Pas area.

8. A decision relative to wildlife use and agricultural use of the Saskram area has been made by the Minister in the form of a compromise. Treaty Indian hunting practices remain a contentious issue throughout the Region.

9. People traveling the Churchill River below Missy Falls, together with other users of the river, have expressed concern over the small volumes below Missy and question whether Hydro is operating according to their licence.

10. Considerable work, together with assistance from the Province, has been done and appears to be getting results on a rail bus on the Hudson's Bay Railway. This is to compensate for the severe reductions in passenger transportation by Via Rail which has adversely affected areas served only by rail.

11. Production and processing of wild rice in The Pas area continues to be explored and is meeting with some success.

Manitoba is one-fifth arable land. If our province is to reach its full potential, industry and development must be encouraged in the north. The Manitoba Environmental Council should encourage development of this kind, but at the same time ensure that development takes place in a manner which ensures a minimum of harm to our environment.

* * *

Presented at December 3, 1983 Council Meeting

# Parkland

## Barry Wild

Although there had been no large or unusual accumulations of snow or heavy spring rains, extensive flooding occurred in the Parkland area indicating a likely relation to ill-planned drainage schemes and overly zealous clearing of land for agricultural purposes.

The Manitoba Water Commission responded to a request from cottagers of Lake Dauphin to examine the effects of this year's higher water level before finalizing its report to the Minister of Natural Resources.

The summer of 1983 was a poor one for commercial fishermen on Lake Winnipegosis on account of increased water temperatures. Fish were being caught which had spotted flesh and the season was closed for several days.

A one quarter million dollar Federal Grant, under the Northlands Development Program, has been allocated to the Camperville Development Corporation to study poplar log (not stackwall) 200 mm × 200 mm square sawn timber house construction. If successful in obtaining a further third of a million dollars, with MHRC involvement, then seven prototype houses are to be constructed to further test this concept. There is some difficulty in locating poplar trees of sufficient size in that area.

The Minister of Highways and Transportation (Samuel Uskiw at that time) appealed directly to the Federal Court in an effort to save the rail line between Winnipegosis and Sifton.

The Honourable Al Mackling has announced the establishment of a sixth area under the Ecological Reserves Act. This one is a 500 ha site east of Cowan and contains a diversity of plant communities within a small area.

Two park wardens who attempted to apprehend poachers were themselves "apprehended" by the poachers and held repeatedly at gunpoint with horses, firearms and radios being taken. All department property as well as the poached game has been recovered and three persons have been charged regarding this incident.

Approximately $80,000 is to be spent jointly by the Manitoba Water Services Board and the Town of Grandview to upgrade that town's sewage system.

Also, in the sewage department, for the past two crop years the Town of Roblin has been utilizing final effluent from its lagoon to irrigate a quarter section of alfalfa. All indications point to the overwhelming success of this scheme, turning what would otherwise be a detrimental product for surface waterway contamination into a valuable and fertile resource.

Our new Minister has just announced that the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission will be holding public hearings on hazardous and special waste management around the province. The hearing for Dauphin is slated for Monday, December 5, 1983.

Finally, as will no doubt be offered in greater detail in this afternoon's forum, work is proceeding on the Lake Dauphin fish project. Michael Papst is to meet with the R.M. of Dauphin this forthcoming Tuesday to outline its scope and direction and to report on achievements to date.

* * *

Presented at December 3, 1983 Council Meeting

The land-fill site by Winnipegosis is among fourteen in the province subjected to an indepth study by officials of both Provincial and Federal Ministries of the Environment. The sites in the study were selected for a variety of reasons including their proximity to surface water and human habitations. Possible leachate into ground water will be quantified and potentially hazardous materials identified.

Fifty wood buffalo from Alberta have been trucked to the Waterhen Indian Reserve in February. A complication in this project to establish a bison herd in Manitoba is the multi-level involvement of three federal ministries, one provincial ministry, the independent Canadian Wildlife Federation and an Indian Band. Another 50 animals are slated to be added to the herd some time in 1986.

Federal Transport Minister Lloyd Axworthy has announced his clear stance in favour of the retention of the 16 km Sifton/Fork River rail line. This position is in accord with 19 of the 20 original submissions (CN was the only one favouring closure) to the CTC which nevertheless ruled, on March 14, 1983, to permit abandonment of the line in 1986. Though the Fork River/Winnipegosis extension was able to be lifted 30 days after that ruling, its rails today remain connected to the system.

One of the poachers in Riding Mountain National Park, who reportedly held two wardens at rifle-point last September 28th, has pleaded guilty to two counts of robbery. Several other charges, including pointing a firearm and illegal possession of wild meat, were stayed by the Crown. There still remains to be heard a charge of possessing a firearm. The other individual involved will be heard at a preliminary hearing to be held in Dauphin this month.

The Honourable Al Mackling, Minister of Natural Resources, was in Dauphin as a speaker at a public dialogue on wildlife on February 14th. He reiterated his government's existing stance that Native hunting, with the possible exception of its effect on the moose, has not been shown to be detrimental to big game populations. He further stated that pressures on game were due instead to increased facility of access such as new logging roads and "little three-wheel monsters". He promised to renew his investigation of an earlier suggestion to utilize Manitoba's 700 professional guides as associate conservation officers to assist in the abatement of poaching. He also suggested that more wetlands could be preserved for wildlife if farmers were discouraged from cropping marginal lands by not assessing such land for taxation purposes.

Within a couple of months The Wild Kingdom Game Farm will have vacated its very cramped (less than 1 ha) site at the south end of Dauphin for 15 ha of rolling land near Erickson. The Siberian tiger, bull elk and grizzly bear will then have many times their pennage as at the moment.

Prompted, in part, by last year's ban on hunting along the boundary line of Riding Mountain National Park, a legal survey clearly establishing those boundary lines has been commissioned.

The Federal and Provincial Governments have designated Dauphin as a floodrisk area and development in specific locations adjoining the Vermillion River will, in future, be restricted. Funding from government sources such as CMHC is no longer available (as of mid-February) to homeowners seeking to build in the "floodway" and no disaster assistance will be available with respect to new construction (even for renovations) in that zone. Neither level of government will build in that designated area. In the "fringe" area new construction is permitted but only if floodproofing measures (anchoring, raising, ring dykes) are incorporated into the design.

A recently released Department of Natural Resources survey of Manitoba landowners' views of hunter behaviour, hunting laws and their enforcement has findings which are of particular significance to the Parkland Region. Beyond the factual tabulations of problems with hunter trespassing, etc. is the finding that nearly 50% of the respondents were so concerned with the excessive rate (a rate which has exceeded former Departmental estimates) of habitat destruction that they would participate in a program to conserve wetlands and woodlands. While the public mood is evidently so apt the Provincial Government should consider amending its present land use policies to cease subsidizing the clearing of bush and draining of marginal agricultural lands and instead actively encourage the retention and extension of existing wild areas.

Once again this spring there is a rash of brush fires taking their toll on wildlife and their habitat. At the time of Easter there were seventeen fires burning in the Parkland and all of them have been established as resulting from human activities. A discouragingly large number of farmers are still devout adherents to the annual burning of the stubble from their fields. A single match is also widely perceived by rural residents as a fast and economical means of commencing to clear wild lands for eventual agricultural uses.

On the 9th of April, 1984, Ferdinand Guiboche proclaimed the existence of the Camperville Métis Government. To date there have been demands made upon the Provincial Government to transfer jurisdiction of 100 sections of land to that Métis Government and demands made upon the Federal Government to fund this venture into local autonomy. The Métis Government has indicated it will assume responsibility for the educational system in Camperville commencing next September and that it wishes to manage all natural resources within this territory. As the crow flies your Duck River reporter resides just five minutes from ground zero (downtown Camperville).

* * *

Presented at May 12, 1984 Council Meeting

# Pembina Valley
## D.S. Schellenberg

1983-1984 has been a year of economic growth in the valley and one which has seen us deal with several environmental issues. The hazardous waste hearings have generated both interest and concern; soil and water conservation is an ongoing issue, as is a good and plentiful water supply for many of our communities.

Two hearings related to hazardous waste disposal were held in Morden. With more industry being attracted to the region, this question is of importance to area residents. It will be necessary to develop an effective and equitable policy; equitable in that it will not affect local industry negatively in cost. Should one disposal site be chosen, transport costs to such a site should be equal to all industries and the disposal service should be equally accessible to both urban and rural industries.

Soil and water conservation is being discussed by the Agricultural Committee of the Pembina Valley Development Corporation. Discussions have been held with PFRA officials, the Provincial Ministers of Agriculture and Natural Resources and members of the opposition. A presentation was also made to the recent Senate hearings. Consideration is being given to the formation of a soil and water conservation district. However, the feeling at the present time is that these districts do more drainage work than conservation work and that in their existing format they may not offer a satisfactory solution.

Both the towns of Altona and Emerson are working towards obtaining a new and plentiful supply of water. In both cases, studies are being completed and decisions should be possible later this year. The Assiniboine South Hespler is still under discussion as well. An abundant supply of

water would make irrigation possible for the agricultural industry and would make possible the establishment of other industries with large demands for water. It could also facilitate the establishment of new recreational facilities and serve to enhance the environment.

There are other areas of continuing concern such as the disposal of farm chemical containers and the Garrison Diversion. These are issues which we share in common with other regions.

* * *

Presented at May 12, 1984 Council Meeting

## Winnipeg
### Elizabeth Pawlicki

The City is spraying once again its trees for control of canker worms. The infestation of these pests is reported to be very high this year. There has been some controversy as to whether or not the spraying program is effective. The amount of trees that can be sprayed in the time that allows for an effective kill has been estimated as a small percentage of the total number of trees in the city. Another threat is to the stately elms of Winnipeg, that of Dutch Elm Disease. Replacement trees will be varieties that are not affected by the elm bark beetle, the carrier of this disease.

The quality of water in the Red River is poor. Winnipeg is in part responsible for some of the pollution. This water quality is of concern to down stream users — particularly Selkirk.

The proposed cottage development at Shoal Lake is a threat to Winnipeg's water supply. Winnipeg has been fortunate in the past that it has had an ample and pure water supply from that source. The development of this area is unfortunate. We do not know what longterm effects it will have on the City's water supply.

The environment in which we live is as important to the city-dweller as to those who live in areas where they are more in touch with nature. Our food supply comes from the surrounding countryside and we should be as concerned with urban sprawl as those who see their precious farmland disappearing.

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Presented at May 12, 1984 Council Meeting

# Technical Committees' Reports
## Education
### Ronald Phillips

The Education Committee met regularly on a monthly basis between September, 1983 and May, 1984. The following committee members participated actively in these meetings:

S. Copen; R. Corobow; H. Driedger; W. Neily; L. Norman; R. Phillips; J. Shay.

Major thrusts by the Committee include:

1. The preparation of a brief on subsidized transportation for schools which was presented and approved at the May 1984 Council Meeting.
2. The publicizing and distribution of past Manitoba Environmental Council cartoons.
3. The review of various environmental education resource materials for the classroom.
4. The preparation of a Manitoba Environmental Council Orientation Package for new members.
5. The preparation of items for a province-wide environmental education attitude survey.
6. The adoption of the following new Terms of Reference for the Education Committee:
   - To nurture and foster programs of environmental education in Manitoba.
   - To promote environmental awareness throughout Manitoba, e.g. environment week, public awareness, cartoon contests, trivia contests, public forums.
   - To function as the public relations component of the Manitoba Environmental Council.

The development of an item bank of Manitoba environmental trivia questions which were used on Information Radio C.B.C. during Environment Week.

An in-depth study of the environmental education curriculum threads in K-9 Science programs in the Province of Manitoba.

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Presented at May 12, 1984 Council Meeting

# Environmental Impact Assessment

## Basil M. Rotoff

The Environmental Impact Assessment Committee, consisting of D. Blight; B. Dexter; A. Howard; E. Pawlicki and Rotoff met six times between October 1983 and April 1984.

Because the Committee had been inactive for a number of years, it was deemed necessary to re-define its terms of reference and to investigate the status of Environmental Assessment in Manitoba in general; in other words this implied a process of self-education on the part of the Committee. This was achieved through ordering some books and journals, inviting well informed guest speakers and exchanging miscellaneous articles and printed materials among the members of the Committee.

Concurrently with this autodidactic activity, and after considering a number of possibilities, the Committee's work concentrated on the following objectives:

1. Evaluation of the Environmental Assessment Review Process (EARP) over the past eight years.
2. Examination of the various environmental problems of Lake Dauphin.

The first objective was achieved to the satisfaction of the Committee and two briefs were presented at the Annual Meeting in May 1984.

For its second objective, the Committee began assembling its data from the Fall Forum of December 3, 1983, when the Federal Fisheries Project was presented. Sufficient data was finally assembled by the last meeting, but time was too short to subject it to scrutiny and to prepare an adequate brief by the Council Meeting. The Committee decided to place it on the agenda of the Fall of 1984, with the aim of presenting a brief at that time.

I wish to thank the following people who contributed to our knowledge and deliberations: Mr. M. Boreskie and Mr. B. Blunt of the Province of Manitoba, Mr. C. Kaufmann of the City of Winnipeg and Mr. J. Robertson of Dauphin, as well as the members of the Environmental Impact Assessment Committee for their hard work and dedication.

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Presented at May 12, 1984 Council Meeting

# Environmental Chemicals/ Water and Waste

## Derek Muir

The Environmental Chemicals and Water and Waste Committees were combined this year and functioned as one committee. This decision worked well, probably because of the issues addressed, but also, because of a good rapport between committee members who attended our meetings.

In September the Committee decided to focus on the hazardous waste issue with the objective of presenting our views at the Clean Environment Commission hearings on the Environmental Management Division's hazardous and special wastes program. After a series of meetings and a presentation by Ed Yee (EMD's Hazardous Waste Coordinator), we developed a position paper (see Position Papers) which was presented at the Clean Environment Commission hearings in Winnipeg on January 30, 1984. Our presentation stressed the need for programs to be put in place immediately to encourage recycling and recovery of wastes. We supported the concept that government should own the land on which any treatment facility was built without necessarily being the operator of the facility. We also reviewed the draft of the Dangerous Goods Handling Act and sent our comments to the Minister (see Position Papers).

Subsequently, we turned our attention to a subject that has been considered by the Environmental Chemicals Committee in past years, the issue of pesticide spraying for control of adult mosquitos. We reviewed the EMD's report on the 1983 Western Equine Encephalitis Control Program and sent our comments to the Minister. A brief was also forwarded to the City of Winnipeg's Committee on Recreation and Social Services, recommending that fogging for mosquito control in Winnipeg be discontinued (see Position Papers). In preparing a brief on the use of pesticide spraying for control of WEE carrying mosquitos, for Council's consideration today, we used the results of our review of the EMD report, as well as the public comments of Dr. A. Ronald who had treated many patients with encephalitis.

At the December 3, 1983 Council Meeting two presentations from scientists at the Freshwater Institute (FWI) in Winnipeg, were made on the state of the freshwater environment in Manitoba.

Mike Papst, Manager of the Resource Development Section at FWI, outlined the problems with commercial fishery on Dauphin

Lake caused by channelling of streams and other activities. He described a pilot project in which walleye will be reared in large ponds and then released into the lake with the goal of rehabilitating the fishery.

Dr. Robert Hecky, Head of the Southern Indian Lake project at FWI, outlined the deterioration of water quality and the commercial fishery in this northern lake caused by hydro development and the Churchill River diversion. His slides dramatically illustrated the erosion of shorelines and flooding caused by fluctuations in the water levels that have occurred since the lake became a reservoir.

Other activities included completion of the manuscript entitled "Survey of Environmental Monitoring Programs in Manitoba". This report which was first prepared by Arlene Tompkins, our summer student in 1982, was updated in January of this year by asking for comments from the participating agencies. The report was then re-edited and submitted to the Publication Committee.

Our most important brief, which we are submitting for Council's consideration today, concerns the abandoning of water quality measurements in the province by the Department of Environment. This was a recent decision within EMD and was discussed briefly at the final meeting of the Committee on April 30th. Unfortunately there was not time to allow committee members on the mailing list their usual chance to comment on this brief prior to this meeting. We seek Council's support in strongly opposing this decision.

The new Chairman of the Environmental Chemical/Water and Waste Committee as of June will be Mike McKernan. Mike was actively involved with the Committee during the year. I urge all committee members to support the committee's activities in the coming months. I would like to thank several other committee members, John Fortier, Roger Ptasnik and Peter Arntfield, for their very active participation this year.

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Presented at May 12, 1984 Council Meeting

# Land Use

## Robert J. Drake

Commencing its organizational meeting in September 1983, the Land Use Committee conducted a total of seven meetings during the year, which were held at the regional office of INCO Limited in downtown Winnipeg.

The fifteen members of the Committee focused their attention on the following issues:

- Contamination of land by chemicals
- Erosion of soil by wind and water
- Urban sprawl
- Wetland drainage
- Land ownership

Initially, little importance was given to the issue of land ownership. However, eventually it became the most important topic, resulting in the preparation of a Brief entitled: "Environmental Effects of Selling Crown Land". The research for this paper was conducted by Wayne Cowan and the Brief received the Council's approval at the May 12, 1984 annual meeting.

I wish to acknowledge the continuing support and valuable input of the other committee members as follows: Art Allan, Wayne Cowan, Ken Emberley, Don Glays, Irene Grant, Paddy Laine, Meredith Lamb, Terry Neraasen, Russ Phillips, John Selwood, Murray Wagner, Jenny Rose Ward, Olga Weber and Jim Richtik.

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Presented at May 12, 1984 Council Meeting

# Wildlife Committee
## Ian Rollo

By far the greatest efforts of the Committee went into discussion, preparation and arrangements for the Wildlife Forum which was held in the Centennial Auditorium on March 2 and 3, 1984. The intent was to choose a theme and invite speakers of note to address topics which would attract a good audience and engender discussion.

The general theme was "Manitoba Wildlife into the 21st Century", and the following speakers participated:

Mr. Eugene Bossenmaier, Winnipeg,
"Wildlife Conservation in Manitoba"

Dr. Valerius Geist, Calgary,
"Lessons from the Past"

Professor J. Livingstone, Toronto,
"The Fallacy of Wildlife Conservation"

Mr. Monte Hummel, Toronto,
"Endangered Species in Manitoba:
Which Do We Save First"

Dr. M. Sheridan, Winnipeg,
"The Importance of Wildlife to Canadians,
Special Reference to Manitoba"

The morning session was followed by a general panel discussion between invited participants and the audience. For this the moderator was Ms. Leslie Hughes, a local broadcaster. Those invited were J. Livingstone, G. Clavelle and Matthew Sinclair representing the native population; the topic was "The Place of Wildlife in Manitoba's Future". The proceedings were videotaped.

Accompanying this was an exhibition of wildlife photography mounted by the internationally recognized Bob Taylor, and two evenings of films from the University of Montana's International Wildlife Festival.

**Other Concerns of the Committee:**

The Manitoba tree — being asked for our opinion, our recommendations, in order, were: Manitoba Maple, Birch, Poplar, Plains Cottonwood.

Parks Development — met with Mr. Gordon Jones, Provincial Parks Department administration, and discussed our work and recommendations on the Whiteshell and Grassy River proposals. Our influence apparently was beneficial to wildlife, at least in part, due to decrease in roads planned and decrease in designated hunting areas. We are looking forward to proposals related to developments in Hecla; so far these have not been forthcoming.

Action on Briefs — the Committee discussed and expressed concern over previous lack of action on briefs submitted, in particular those on noxious weeds and the timber wolf.

Aerial spraying — the Committee discussed and expressed concern over the policy for aerial spraying with insecticides and recommended that Council obtain copies of all relevant scientific studies.

Trapping — the Committee discussed and presented a brief on current trapping practices. However, the recommendations were not approved by Council.

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Presented at May 12, 1984 Council Meeting

# Briefs
## 1. Nuclear Energy in Canada
### Recommendations:

1. That the Manitoba Environmental Council recommends to the Minister to request the appropriate provincial department to conduct a public inquiry into all aspects of the nuclear enterprise in Canada; particularly the links between the peaceful and military use of nuclear power in high technology research and development, in international sales, and in political-military alliances.

2. That the Manitoba Environmental Council recommends to the Minister to ask the government of Manitoba to urge the government of Canada to declare a moratorium on all construction of nuclear power plants in Canada on the grounds that:

(1) The problem of nuclear waste disposal is not solved at the scientific level (assured methods of disposal), nor at the political level (provinces and countries are generally unwilling to be the repository for nuclear waste).

(2) The problems of low level radiation connected with the mining and waste disposal are neither fully understood nor overcome.

(3) The nuclear power industry in Canada is far from a viable industry economically, and is dependent upon vast open and hidden subsidies from the taxpayer to keep it afloat. (In this sense it is in the company of the nuclear industry worldwide — whose most serious problems, as existing plants and equipment age and breakdowns and decommissionings occur, lie ahead of it.)

3. That the Manitoba Environmental Council recommends to the Minister to ask the government of Manitoba to monitor very closely the waste disposal research at Pinawa to ensure:

(1) The safety of the residents of the area from any and all possible effects of the research, particularly that deriving from the use of radioactive tracers such as tritium, now presently in use.

(2) That Manitoba *not* become a site for a permanent waste repository.

4. That the Manitoba Environmental Council recommends to the Minister to urge the government of Manitoba to pursue vigorously alternative energy research and programs and urge the same course on the federal government.

## Background:

*Re 1:* See especially —

Regehr, Ernie, *Making a Killing: Canada's Arms Industry* (Toronto: McLelland and Stewart, 1975)

Lovins, Armory B., and L. Hunter Lovins, *Energy/War: Breaking the Nuclear Link: A Prescription for Non-proliferation* (New York: Harper, 1980)

Wolfe, Alan, *The Rise & Fall of the "Soviet Threat": Domestic Sources of the Cold War Consensus* (Washington: Institute for Policy Studies, 1979).

*Re 2:* Among many demonstrations of its economic unviability, see especially Gordon Edwards' work with the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility (CCNR); Walt Patterson, *Nuclear Power* (Penguin, 1976), 218-233; and, in great particular, Hon. Jean Chrétien's emphasis of the Canadian industry's economic disaster in his dialogue with church leaders, December, 1982.

The points about present problems of waste disposal and low level radiation are generally accepted as matters that indeed require further study and future resolution.

*Re 3:* We note with appreciation the work already done by the government of Manitoba in monitoring the effects of Pinawa research.

We reiterate the fear expressed by other communities connected with waste disposal research about facilities, precedent, and, above all, *political decisions already in place because of the research* conducing to an election of that same site for a *permanent* waste disposal facility.

*Re 4:* This is a suitably pious and unexceptional conclusion to our brief — but it isn't being done.

Carl Ridd, Chairman, Energy Committee

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Presented at December 3, 1983 Council Meeting

# 2. Transportation Subsidy for Schools

## Recommendation:

The Manitoba Environmental Council recommends to the Minister that the use of environmental field study sites in Manitoba by Manitoba school students be encouraged through a separate and specific transportation subsidy or allowance set aside for such a purpose and provided to participating schools.

## Background:

Grade IX is the last year in which we know Manitoba students will be exposed to environmental education. In fact, the major thrust in environmental education takes place in the Grade IX curriculum. The high school curriculum offers elective courses. Therefore, every effort should be made to give Grade IX students the opportunity to learn about the

environment first hand. This grade level still responds well to field excursions.

But schools are finding that with restraint budgeting and rising transportation costs, the monies allotted to transportation are insufficient to permit excursions to some of the more interesting field stations, extension centres, and distant sites. The Spruce Woods "Manitoba desert" is a good example of such sites. School buses will charter an excursion for $130 per bus, but are restricted in the distance they can travel from their main base of operations since their first priority is busing children to and from school. Charter companies will undertake the round trip to Spruce Woods for $300 per bus. Should a highway bus with restroom facilities be necessary, the Spruce Woods trip costs $375 per bus. (Each bus will carry about 42 students.) Hence the more distant locations are underutilized and students miss out on some very valuable educational experiences.

Environmental education is no longer a "high priority" item in the schools. For this reason the responsibility of keeping this a priority item should rest with agencies and departments directly concerned.

H. Driedger, Education Committee

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Presented at May 12, 1984 Council Meeting

# 3. Environmental Assessment and Review Process (EARP) Recommendations:

The Manitoba Environmental Council recommends the following measures to the Minister of Environment:

1. That the Minister establish an environmental monitoring mechanism as part of MEARA, by redeploying existing staff and resources. The purpose of this mechanism shall be the verification of compliance and mitigation, as well as identification of problem areas in the Environmental Assessment Review Process.
2. That the Minister request his honourable colleagues to issue directives for earlier submissions by all proponent agencies to MEARA, and for collaboration with MEARA from the early planning phases of all significant projects.
3. That the Minister charge his Community Relations Branch with an educational campaign aimed at all proponents in government departments and at municipal governments.
4. That the Minister explore with the Minister of Municipal Affairs the feasibility of applying EARP at the municipal level, through the offices of the Provincial Planning Branch or any other agency deemed appropriate to initiate such studies.
5. That the Minister explore with the Minister of Economic Development the possibility of extending EARP to the private sector, by such means as tying to compliance industrial development grants and similar incentives.
6. That the Minister instruct his Department to amend the existing EARP policy document to include a preamble with explicit intent, basic concepts and philosophy of this policy.

## Background:

Over the past year, the Environmental Impact Review Committee of Council has been evaluating the Environmental Assessment Review Process (EARP) since its 1975 enactment. The evaluation consisted of comparing performance with other jurisdictions, extensive interviews with administrators and professionals directly involved in the process, as well as first hand knowledge generated within the Council membership.

## Government Commitment to EARP:

There appears to be a steady improvement of EARP performance since the adoption of Provincial Guidelines. There is a growing acceptance within the Government Departments. However, elected government and cabinet ought to provide greater guidance and leadership in:

(a) recognizing the efforts, achievement and dedication of the civil servants charged with EARP implementation; and

(b) strengthening and safeguarding the system.

Greater commitment to EARP by the government would in turn facilitate fine tuning of the existing system which, the Committee has found, is in great need of the following:

(a) emphasis on monitoring projects beyond approvals and compliance with guidelines. This would provide a baseline for evaluating efficacy of EARP.

(b) access by the Manitoba Environmental Review Agency to personnel with project specific expertise, participating in the process and follow-up.

## Should EARP be legislated?

The legal status of EARP remains an unsettled issue: should it remain as policy or be made statutory? The voluntary system appears to work, though this can only be confirmed through monitoring. Unfortunately, only the Provincial Government is bound by this policy: there are no specific guidelines for the municipalities nor private sector. Moreover, as a well established Federal procedure, EARP has been spotty in performance and sometimes entirely disregarded, if not outright flounted by some departments. Although Federal compliance is the subject of a subsequent brief, the realistic compliance on a Provincial level is addressed here with regard to major proponent groups:

(a) **Provincial Government:** The "policy approach" presents two serious problems. Firstly, contact between MEARA and proponents is insufficiently formalized. Projects submitted close to implementation preclude meaningful Environmental Assessment. Scheduling may be affected by mitigation measures, and where project difficulties occur, planning and budgetary constraints may override environmental concerns. Were proponents to consult with MEARA throughout the design stages, environmental impacts could be more readily identified and preempted.

Secondly, there remains the potential for omission of environmentally significant projects by the proponent, either deliberately or tacitly. Both problems would be diminished by raising present policies to the status of law. Experience in other provinces has shown trivial projects inordinately increase administrative burdens, though this does not outweigh the problems of the policy approach. Given the economic development conditions of the Province, the policy approach may be practicable until feedback from monitoring enables more definitive evaluation of the process.

(b) **Municipal Government:** Existing measures as the Land Use Policies of PLUC, Planning Act, Farm Protection Act, Wildlife Act and approximately fifty Provincial Statutes relating to the environment, are uncoordinated and do not cover adequately the full range of environmental impacts. Municipal acts do not encourage environmental protection, as witnessed in the recent de facto elimination of environmental provisions from the City of Winnipeg Act.

However, given the will and adequate direction to both the courts and municipal governments, much progress could be made towards an environmentally responsible attitude at the local level. Initially, an educational approach may be more productive than coercion: demonstrating the benefits of compliance rather than chastising non-compliance.

(c) **The Private Sector:** The present economic climate obviates mandatory compliance. The Committee found proponents of national stature complying willingly. Medium range operations present a greater concern. For these proponents, an incentive approach would reap direct benefits for greater participation in EARP. For example, industrial development grants of the Manitoba Development Fund could be channeled in priority to complying firms.

## On Judicial Interpretation:

It is clear from the introduction to the policy document "An Environmental Assessment and Review Process for Proposed Provincial Projects" that considerable thought went into its preparation (see p. 1).

The basic concepts, philosophies, methodologies and implementation, opinions, etc., have been subject to inter-departmental analysis.

However, as cases arise involving EARP, or should EARP be raised to a statutory standing, the "basic concepts and philosophies" ought to be fully disclosed. Examination of cases has shown omission of such intent of policy or law places the burden of proof on the plaintiff and produces judgments incompatible with environmental interests.

On the basis of these background considerations, six recommendations are being respectfully submitted to the Honourable Minister of the Environment.

Professor B. Rotoff, Chairman
Environmental Impact Review Committee

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Presented at May 12, 1984 Council Meeting

## 4. Federal Compliance with the Environmental Assessment and Review Process

### Recommendations:

The Council recommends to the Minister that the following questions be introduced at the agenda of the next meeting of Ministers of the Environment:

1. Compliance of all Federal departments with the existing Environmental Assessment and Review Process.
2. Poor record of compliance and mitigation of projects deemed of national interest.
3. Consideration of the introduction of Legislation stating the intent and establishing mandatory Environmental Assessment and Review for all Federal Agencies.

### Background:

In its review of the Manitoba Environmental Assessment and Review Process, the Committee has observed that all too often, the soft approach presently used by the Federal Government has four visible flaws:

1. It fails to achieve a leadership position with respect to other levels of Government, as it did, say, with the Transportation of Dangerous Goods legislation.
2. It doesn't commit some high profile Federal departments to Environmental Impact Review in large projects deemed of national interest. There are known cases of D.N.D. ignoring Federal EARP guidelines.
3. Not having a statement of an "Environmental Philosophy" entrenched in a statute weakens Canada's position in its dealings on Environmental matters with the U.S., who have an Environmental Protection Act.
4. It lacks the means to tackle seriously and effectively inter-provincial environmental problems.

Professor B. Rotoff, Chairman
Environmental Impact Review Committee

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Presented at May 12, 1984 Council Meeting

## 5. The Use of Herbicides in Forestry

### Recommendation:

The Manitoba Environmental Council recommends to the Minister that forestry and other non-agricultural uses of 2,4D and related phenoxy-acid herbicides be thoroughly reviewed by the Department of Environment and that consideration be given to a ban on aerial forestry spraying of these herbicides.

### Background:

Phenoxy-acid herbicides such as 2,4D and 2,4,5-T are widely used in forestry to control competition from broad-leaf vegetation (termed "conifer release"). Other non-agricultural uses include spraying of rights-of-way and home garden/lawn weed control. We understand that 2,4,5-T is no longer used in Manitoba but, 2,4,D has been used by the forest industry for conifer release. A recent editorial in the Opasquia Times (The Pas, April, 1984) noted that increased reforestation in Northern Manitoba, resulting from recent Federal-Provincial agreements on improving forestry resources, may lead to increased use of herbicides in replanted and cut-over areas.

A recently published report by the National Research Council of Canada (NRCC 1983) predicts that aerial spraying for forestry use can result in 30 to 100-times greater exposure of bystanders to 2,4D than aerial use in agriculture (at the same wind speed). (This is the result of different nozzles used in forestry versus agricultural uses.) The predicted exposures, however, are very low (at 100 metres a 70 kg person would receive 12.66 micrograms [dermal, oral and inhalation exposure] in forestry use and 0.36 micrograms in agricultural use) and need to be verified by actual testing. Nevertheless the results indicate that forestry uses must be carefully controlled with large buffer zones to avoid contamination of inhabited areas. In New Brunswick spraying of 2,4D must be conducted at a minimum distance of 1.6 km from human habitation.

Use of phenoxy-acid herbicides in other provinces and in the U.S. has been quite controversial and has led to the banning of the use of 2,4,5-T in many jurisdictions because of contamination of this herbicide with the toxic dioxin, 2,3,7,8-tetra-chlorodioxin. Several environmental and human health concerns are also raised about the use of 2,4D. These include: (1) that 2,4D may cause reproductive effects — such as fetal mortality and skeletal malformations, (2) that neurological complaints in industrial and agricultural workers are related to 2,4D exposure, and (3) that 2,4D and related phenoxy-acids are associated with rare cancers in forestry farm and sawmill workers.

A recent study by the National Research Council of Canada (NRCC 1983) addresses the above issues and makes suggestions for further study of 2,4D. The study generally found that the above concerns were not strongly supported by the scientific literature:

(1) 2,4D does cause reproductive effects at high doses in laboratory animals but dioxin contaminants in the herbicide are not likely the cause.

(2) Neurological effects have been reported in workers exposed to low doses of 2,4D for extended periods. The effects are consistent with the effects in laboratory animals exposed at high doses. The reported neurological effects could be due to the solvents and emulsifiers in the herbicide formulation rather than to the herbicide.

(3) There is evidence in Swedish epidemiological studies that phenoxy-acid herbicide exposure is associated with a rare type of cancer (soft tissue sarcoma), however, no evidence to prove that 2,4D alone is a carcinogen since the workers were exposed to 2,4,5-T and chlorophenols as well as 2,4D.

Alternatives to 2,4D for conifer release include the use of other herbicides, application by ground spray only, or the hiring of people to cut the broad-leaf growth in reforested areas. These alternatives should be explored in detail by a departmental or Clean Environment Commission review.

Reference: NRCC, 1983. 2,4D: Some Current issues. Prepared for the Associate Committee on Scientific Criteria for Environmental Quality. Publication No. 20647.

Derek Muir, Chairman,
Environmental Chemicals/Water
and Waste Committee

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Presented at May 12, 1984 Council Meeting

## 6. Use of Insecticides to Control Western Equine Encephalitis

### Recommendation:

The Manitoba Environmental Council recommends to the Minister that the Government of Manitoba adopt a policy that aerial spraying with insecticides no longer be considered for control of mosquitos during outbreaks of Western Equine Encephalitis (WEE) and that contingency funds allocated for purchase of insecticide be spent on an intensive public education program regarding the need for personal protection especially in rural areas.

### Background:

The Environmental Management Division released a Summary Report in November 1983 on the Monitoring of the 1983 WEE Control Program. This report summarized probably the most extensive monitoring program ever carried out in Manitoba on aerial insecticide applications during health emergencies. The

results of this report and recent public comments of Dr. A. Ronald (Chairman, Dept. of Infectious Disease and Microbiology, University of Manitoba Medical College) form the basis for our conclusion that the insecticide spray program is not effective for control of WEE:

1. Caged mosquitos were killed in open areas (80-85%) and to a lesser extent under tree canopy (average 49%) but the effect lasted only for 1 or 2 days with biting counts returning to pre-spraying levels after 5 days. There was no indication that *Culex tarsalis*, the WEE carrying species, was selectively controlled. There is no evidence that reducing mosquito populations for such a short time had, or has had in past spray programs, any effect on control of the disease.

2. The risk associated with dying from a mosquito bite is extremely low. Dr. Ronald notes that if smoking 1 cigarette reduces life expectancy by 8-9 minutes, and crossing a city street intersection by 0.4 minutes, then life expectancy was reduced by 0.1 minutes due to a mosquito bite in August 1983. It is extremely difficult to control any disease, by any means, with such a low frequency. There is undue focus on WEE relative to other more common forms of encephalitis.

3. The environmental effects of malathion spraying were devastating on non-target species that were monitored. Bees were particularly hard hit and compensation payments (reported to be $847,500) were an additional cost of the insecticide program. Malathion was more persistent in aquatic systems than anticipated (perhaps because most published data on the insecticide is generated in relatively warm waters) and effects on fish documented in a city storm retention pond suggest that aquatic organisms in shallow waters in general could have been severely affected.

Derek Muir, Chairman
Environmental Chemicals/Water and Waste Committee

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Presented at May 12, 1984 Council Meeting

# 7. Recycling of Aluminum Containers

## Recommendation:

The Manitoba Environmental Council recommends to the Minister that his department take steps to encourage recycling of aluminum cans to prevent future environmental problems due to the poor return rate of these containers and to demonstrate his department's commitment to waste recovery and recycling in Manitoba.

## Background:

Aluminum beer cans have recently been introduced in Manitoba and are projected to take about 7% of the market (or 14 million cans) by 1985. At the current return rate about 10 million cans will be discarded. This represents 195,000 kilograms of aluminum lost (each can weighs 19.6 grams) to landfill sites or discarded as litter on roadsides, etc. Unlike steel cans, the aluminum cans will not degrade following disposal in landfills, although the discarded cans may melt on hot surfaces such as asphalt pavement and are then difficult to remove.

Aluminum cans are a valuable product for recycling. At current prices for refined aluminum the recycled cans would be worth $400,000. A number of small industries in Winnipeg are producing high purity aluminum from recycled cans. By encouraging recycling the department would also stimulate the growth of a recycling industry in Manitoba which is an essential part of any hazardous waste disposal and waste recovery program.

There are several alternatives available to encourage recycling of the aluminum cans:

(1) Increase the deposit, paid when the consumer buys the product, to 10 cents. This would encourage the recycling of containers but probably reduce consumption since aluminum cans already sell at a premium over the bottled product.

(2) Pass regulations under the Clean Environment Act requiring that manufacturers or distributors set up aluminum can recovery programs.

(3) Start a public awareness program to encourage return of the cans. This approach has been very successful in many U.S. states. The education program could include suggestions for fund-raising by community clubs and private groups with can-return drives and the setting up of can-return depots by these groups. The recycling industry could also be encouraged to purchase large quantities of the recycled cans directly from registered groups.

Derek Muir, Chairman
Environmental Chemicals/Water and
Waste Committee

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Presented at May 12, 1984 Council Meeting

## 8. Water Quality Monitoring Recommendation:

The Manitoba Environmental Council recommends to the Minister that the Environmental Management Division (EMD) reconsider plans to abandon water quality monitoring (monitoring of pH, coliforms, nitrogen, phosphorus and heavy metals) in the province.

### Background:

The EMD has recently reassigned 4 employees with the Water Standards and Studies Service (WSSS) to the Hazardous Waste section leaving only 3 people to carry out the work of this group. The WSSS was responsible for surface water quality in the province. Personnel in this group collected samples from a network of 83 sampling stations throughout the province. Samples from 56 stations were taken monthly depending on river flows while samples from 27 northern stations were taken six times per year (3 in summer and 3 in winter). Site specific investigations were also carried out in response to specific aquatic problems.

A variety of chemical parameters were measured (by the EMD's Technical Services lab) which enabled water quality in the province's rivers and lakes to be characterized. These included: total and fecal coliform, pH, dissolved oxygen, total organic carbon, nitrate and nitrite, total phosphorus, heavy metals including arsenic, cadmium and mercury.

Site specific studies included a 35 lake survey conducted in 1981 to evaluate surface water sensitivity to acid deposition in Northern Manitoba and studies of the relationship of abandoned mine tailings to surface water quality at Cold Lake.

No other agency within provincial or federal government departments in Manitoba is engaged in such an extensive monitoring program. Federal government laboratories collect samples (for analysis at Burlington, Ont.) from interprovincial or international waters only.

The reduction in water quality monitoring programs comes at a time when good water quality data are needed for example in northern Manitoba to settle claims regarding the impact of hydro development on potable water and on fish spawning areas. Continuous monitoring of water quality parameters is also essential in rivers in southern Manitoba which receive treated sewage effluent and are also used as drinking water sources such as the Assiniboine and Red Rivers.

Derek Muir, Chairman
Environmental Chemicals/Water and
Waste Committee

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Presented at May 12, 1984 Council Meeting

## 9. Selling of Crown Lands Recommendation:

The Manitoba Environmental Council recommends to the Minister that the Manitoba Department of the Environment initiate a study to determine adherence to the environmental restrictions on land use for lands recently acquired from the Crown under the existing planning and disposal system. This will determine whether the objectives of conserving soil, water, and wildlife resources, and also ameliorating environmental damage on Crown Lands, are being met after they are turned over to private use.

This could be done by selecting a sample of quarter-sections of private lands, of varying durations of private ownership, acquired from the Crown in the wooded area west of Lake Manitoba.

Crown Lands records for each quarter-section land parcel could be reviewed to monitor land uses and preservation of woodlands and wetlands. Aerial photograph interpretation and ground reconnaissance would provide information to compare cover types and activities during pre- and post-sale periods. Analysis would show the proportion of plots on which the environmental recommendations were followed, environmental effects, and potential problem areas.

This study should be carried out very soon while relatively few Crown Lands quarters have been sold and before a precedent is established to the point of no return. The results could prove most valuable to future decisions on management and the prevention of on- and off-site disbenefits to the environment, people and the agricultural industry itself.

## Background:

Crown Lands use in southern Manitoba is controlled by the Crown Lands Division of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Natural Resources by means of the Operational Crown Lands Plan (OCLP). Regional Block Planning Committees (BPCs) code all Crown Lands as to their best uses (e.g. pasture, hayland, or wildlife habitat) and feasible improvements (e.g. clearing, draining, or forage seeding). These plans are reviewed for approval annually by the BPCs, Crown Lands Classification Committee (CLCC) and Provincial Land Use Committee (PLUC).

Forested Crown Lands are often developed for pasture and forage production. These are leased to farmers who are provided government assistance to improve them. They must leave at least 40 acres of trees standing on each 160-acre quarter-section because of soil fragility, erodibility, or other environmental factors. The distribution of clearing is not controlled, nor is grazing in the remaining tree stands.

Lessees may apply to purchase these lands after two years of continual leasing. Sales are subject to recommendation by the Regional Block Planning Committee which may allow or disallow sale, or approve it with suggested restrictions on further clearing, where there are perceived wildlife or other values. The application is then reviewed by the specific Crown Lands Classification Committee and the Provincial Land Use Committee before purchase may be finalized.

## The Problem:

Once Crown Lands pass into private hands, there is apparently now no way to assure that the suggested environmental parameters are adhered to. New owners are unrestricted from growing grain on designated forage or pasture land, clearing the remaining bush, or draining the remaining wetlands. Manitoba Agriculture does not monitor the farming practices and "improvements" or the on-site and off-site environmental effects. Accordingly, we have no record of the long-term effects of this policy.

Robert J. Drake, Chairman
Land Use Committee

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Presented at May 12, 1984 Council Meeting

# Position Papers

## 1. Dangerous Goods Handling Act

Submitted to the Minister of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health on December 21, 1983.

The Environment Chemicals Committee of the Manitoba Environmental Council has reviewed the draft proposal for the Dangerous Goods Handling Act. Our review has included a detailed reading of the Act and the related Transport of Dangerous Goods Act, as well as a presentation from Mr. Ed Yee of the Environmental Management Division on the Hazardous/Special Wastes Program. Committee members also attended the Symposium on Hazardous and Special Wastes last spring and the recent public information meetings on the Act.

We support the general intent of the Act, however, we believe many of the Sections need rewriting to clarify their meaning. The relationship of the Act to other related legislation (e.g. the Clean Environment Act, Transport of Dangerous Goods Act and the

Workplace Safety and Health Act) needs to be defined. We are particularly concerned that enforcement of the Act will be difficult, given the current capabilities of the Department of Environment in chemical analysis and the complexity of some waste mixture. Our comments, concerns and suggestions for changes in the Act are outlined in detail below:

1. Definitions

(a) The word "contaminant" is defined in great detail here but then used infrequently throughout the text. We found the word only twice (Sections 25 and 26c). We suggest that the general definitions of "dangerous goods" and "hazardous wastes" include the word contaminant.

(b) "Environmental Assessment and Review Process" as defined here appears to preclude public participation in such a process since it states" ... to provide government scrutiny of environmentally significant undertakings". This is contrary to the well publicized intention of the Department to include public consultation in the hazardous waste issue.

(c) "Generate". The phrase "... at the point when dangerous goods have no further commercial value" suggests that anyone in the waste recycling business is beyond the Act.

(d) "Hazardous waste disposal facility" includes the phrase "... other than hazardous wastes generated... in the same facility." This suggests that one cannot dispose of a hazardous waste generated during the disposal or detoxification of a waste by the disposal facility at the *same* facility. Would this mean for example, that ash containing dioxins could not be disposed of or stockpiled? This appears to contradict the intention of the Act.

2. Section 6

The term "disposal" needs to be defined here or the definitions. Presumably it is not intended that each municipality has a hazardous waste disposal facility.

3. Section 7(5)

The term "licencable hazardous waste" is mentioned for the first time here and needs defining. Is it a separate category *91* days after the Act comes into force? Does licencable imply a minimum quantity which is tolerated? In this context it is not clear whether private citizens with leftover paints, car oils or pesticides (substances likely to be on lists of dangerous goods) have to obtain a licence. Although this particular example is a matter for regulation, further definition of the term licencable hazardous waste seems appropriate here.

4. Section 9(1)

This section is written in such a way as to imply, in our view, that manufacturers will be licenced to dispose of hazardous wastes on their own property. This may be necessary in some cases (e.g. mining) but does not appear to be consistent with the philosophy of a centralized disposal facility which is implicit in the hazardous and special wastes program.

5. Section 20

There is no indication in the Act of compensation for damages and loss arising from errors by the Environment Department. The dangerous goods area is a highly technical one and it may be difficult to quickly identify contaminants in hazardous wastes or contaminants may be misidentified. Compensation should be an additional alternative for the Environmental Appeal Board.

6. A section on the application and non-application of the Act should be included to clarify the use of the Act in the context of other related Acts. We suggest the following wording: "This Act applies to the management (disposal, detoxification, recycling, handling, energy recovery, constituent recovery) of dangerous goods."

Non-application should also be delineated. Does the Act apply to handling of dangerous goods which are subject to controls under the Transport of Clean Environment Act as well as those under the Federal Transport of Dangerous Goods Act and the Department of National Defence?

Derek Muir, Chairman
Environmental Chemicals/Water and Waste Committee

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# 2. Hazardous Goods

**Presented at the Clean Environment Commission Hearings on Phase I of the Hazardous and Special Wastes Management Program on January 30, 1984.**

The Manitoba Environmental Council welcomes the opportunity to participate in the ongoing process of public consultation on the Department of Environment's Hazardous and Special Wastes management program. We believe that public participation in all phases of the program (hearings, site selection, design, operation and long-term monitoring) is essential for the program to function. Our presentation will focus on activities that the Department of Environment could carry out now, when no hazardous waste treatment facility exists in Western Canada and legislation to regulate hazardous wastes is only in the draft stage, until the time such a facility and management program become operational. Several speakers at the Symposium on Hazardous and Special Wastes, held in March 1983 in Winnipeg, noted that the time interval from site selection to operation could be 5 to 6 years or more, based on the Ontario and West German experience. We will also respond to the list of questions posed by the Commission in the handout.

1. **Publication of information and information management**

   The Department of Environment must endeavour to make industry and the general public in the province more aware of methods to handle, reduce and recycle hazardous wastes. This could be done through the following:

   (a) Publish a Manitoba waste materials exchange bulletin similar to the listing published by the Ontario Research Foundation. This would encourage exchange of materials for joint detoxification of wastes, for example, acids and bases could be neutralized, dyestuffs could be adsorbed to high organic matter solids, etc. It might also encourage development of new industry, whereby a waste becomes raw material for other processes.

   (b) Publish lists of consultants and industries specializing in design of waste recycling, recovery and handling. This would encourage industry to take advantage of state-of-the-art technology from specialists in this subject. It would also encourage research and development in the province.

   (c) Publication of an audit of hazardous goods. A detailed inventory of hazardous goods has recently been carried out. This listing will hopefully be computerized, and an updating system established, so that it is available to regulators involved in hazardous waste disposal and industries hoping to detoxify wastes (as above) or find sources of raw material.

   (d) Utilize the information from the manifest system being introduced for the transport of dangerous goods to find wastes that can be jointly detoxified and sources of raw material.

2. **Financial incentives to industry for recycling and recovery of wastes**

   A program of government-industry cost-sharing agreements should be set up to encourage recycling and recovery of wastes. Examples currently underway include recovery of chrome from chromic acid, silver from photographic developers, and conversion of fish wastes to animal food protein. Current cost-sharing programs include DRECT (Development and demonstration of resource and energy conservation technology) and IERD (Industry Energy Research and Development Program) sponsored by the Federal Department of Energy, Mines and Resources and CREDA (a Manitoba-Canada energy savings program). Provincial government participation in these existing programs and development of new programs specifically for hazardous wastes would encourage in-house changes in industrial processes and would stimulate research and development in the province. On specific issues too difficult for a small industry to handle, the Manitoba Research Council should be funded to solve recycling and recovery problems funded through a cost-sharing program.

3. **Transportation of wastes**

One of the biggest risks associated with the establishing of a hazardous waste treatment facility will be transportation of wastes to the site. Surveys have shown that most problems of handling dangerous goods are in the loading and unloading of them. Many environmental accidents with dangerous goods, to which EMD now responds, involve highway accidents. There is a need to consider "in situ" disposal of wastes by the manufacturer. Research on such techniques for specific problems in Manitoba should be encouraged as described above.

4. **Ownership and operation of the hazardous waste disposal facility**

In Alberta the hazardous waste treatment facility will be built by a private company hired by the government, on crown land, while in Ontario a crown corporation eventually intends to build a facility on government owned land. If a facility is to be built in Manitoba, we recommend that it be built on provincially owned land so that control rests ultimately with the government.

We have no firm view on the question of whether a treatment facility should be operated by a private company or by Crown corporation. It would be easier to answer this question if more information were available on the nature and volume of hazardous wastes in Manitoba. Estimates discussed at the Symposium last year ranged from 45,000 tonnes (90% from the Winnipeg area) of total waste generally classified hazardous to 14,000 tonnes of materials per year actually delivered to a treatment plant (Richardson, Chem. Securities). If the latter estimate is correct, it would appear that the volume of wastes is much smaller than anticipated in Alberta or Ontario and that there may be little incentive for private industry to build a facility. We would hope that the government would consider building and operating a treatment facility as a Crown corporation rather than simply building a large collection site for shipment of wastes to Alberta or Ontario.

More important than the question of ownership of the treatment facility is the issue of monitoring the disposal site. If the facility was operated by the Department of Environment there could be a conflict of interest situation in which EMD would monitor the facility, whose director also reported to the same minister. Ownership and operation by a crown corporation or private company would put the facility at "arm's length" from the monitoring agency (EMD), responsible for enforcing compliance with provincial environmental regulations. An independent advisory board capable of auditing both the finances and chemical monitoring programs of the treatment facility should be set up to help ensure long-term safe operation. Public input, on this board, especially from the local municipal level, would be essential.

5. **Coordination with other governments**

As the Hazardous Waste Management program proceeds, we see the need for it to be coordinated with activities of other provincial governments and with municipal governments, particularly the City of Winnipeg. At the provincial level, Alberta is well ahead of Manitoba and intends to build a facility for its own use. The option of simply collecting wastes in Manitoba and shipping them to Alberta may become attractive, but may not be in Manitoba's long-term interests.

The City of Winnipeg is considering construction of a garbage incinerator for steam generation that could reduce the quantity of hazardous wastes generated in Manitoba. Although the incinerator is not designed for disposal of hazardous wastes, it may inevitably dispose of materials classified as hazardous that are discarded by small industries and by individual homeowners because the present design of the facility does not involve classification of wastes entering the plant. How will provincial plans be coordinated with Winnipeg's?

We trust that the public will be able to participate in considering these options should they materialize through Clean Environment Commission hearings. In addition, we recommend that the proposed incinerator in Winnipeg be subject to an environmental impact assessment.

6. **Public education programs on Hazardous Waste**

**If a treatment facility is built, private citizens must be encouraged to separate wastes so that hazardous materials can be disposed of appropriately. In the interim a public education program is essential to help define what hazardous wastes are and what consumers should do with waste oils, solvents and pesticide containers, prior to implementation of the Dangerous Goods Handling Act, and once a treatment facility becomes operational.**

7. **Further public hearings**

The first recommendation of the Steering Committee of the Hazardous Waste Symposium was that a reliable inventory of wastes be made and the significance of the problem and the consequences of doing nothing about it be assessed in a report by the Department of Environment. Unfortunately no inventory or assessment of the problem has yet been published. We suggest that the Commission consider holding further hearings on Phase I of the Program, when such information becomes available. A more precise definition of what the problem is might direct public discussion in a more constructive manner and might draw more members of the general public into the debate. The hazardous waste issue is so highly technical that few members of the public, this Committee included, have the time necessary to study it. At present, criteria put forward by the public are likely to be too general to be of much use to the Commission or to EMD. The real debate will occur when site selections are announced.

Derek Muir, Chairman
Environmental Chemicals/Water and Waste Committee

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# 3. Fogging for Mosquito Control

**Presented to the Committee on Recreation and Social Services of the City of Winnipeg on February 13, 1984.**

**The Manitoba Environmental Council's Environmental Chemicals/Water and Waste Committee has studied the issue of fogging for control of nuisance mosquitos over the past few years. Our members have previously appeared before City Council (January 19, 1983) and before the Clean Environment Commission Hearings on Mosquito Control (during 1982) to voice our position on this issue. Our Committee consists of 36 members, several of whom have expertise in entomology, aquatic biology and pesticide chemistry. Our position is summarized as follows:**

1. **The Manitoba Environmental Council recommends that residential fogging for the control of nuisance mosquitos be discontinued. By fogging we mean ground application of insecticides as thermal fogs or as ULV generated aerosols. The reason for this is that fogging provides only temporary control. Mosquito counts are reduced only for a day or two following fogging. As well, only a portion, roughly half we understand, of the city can be fogged and then only under ideal wind and temperature conditions. In contrast, the control of immature mosquitos in shallow standing pools of water by larvaciding is a very cost effective method of control of nuisance mosquitos. Pools of water, some distance from the city, can be treated during a regular working day. Larvaciding results in much reduced exposure of city residents to the insecticide chemical while providing more effective control. In summary the cost of fogging is too high in relation to its effectiveness for mosquito control.**

2. **The question of health risks associated with fogging is raised frequently. We are not aware that fogging represents a health risk, however, since fogging provides only temporary relief, any benefits from it do not justify its use, if there are possible risks to the health of city residents. The only exception to this might be in the case of a health emergency due to Western Equine Encephalitis, when fogging would be used to augment other measures of mosquito control.**

Although in this case, fogging would not be the technique of choice, since a long time is required to treat the city and only a portion of city land is accessible to fogging crews.

3. Funds now spent on fogging would be better spent, in our view, on public education about mosquito control. There is ample published information concerning elimination of mosquito breeding sites, biting habits of mosquitos and means of personal protection. This information should be provided to citizens by way of the media and by flyers inserted in city mailings, such as water bills. Information concerning the high cost and short-term control of mosquitos by fogging compared to the long-term control by larvaciding should be provided to city residents. The benefits of personal protection through use of repellents, suitable clothing and drainage of breeding sites on private property should be emphasized.

In conclusion, we recognize that city councillors face demands from citizens for mosquito control. We believe that it is long-term control that is being demanded and not necessarily the temporary mosquito abatement provided by fogging. Has public opinion really been properly evaluated on this issue?

Derek Muir, Chairman
Environmental Chemicals/Water and Waste Committee

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# Responses to Briefs

## Basil M. Rotoff

The briefs presented at the May 1983 Council Meeting were forwarded to the Honourable Jay Cowan on September 7, 1983. A reply came from his successor, the Honourable Gerard Lecuyer, dated January 3, 1984.

The reply consisted of responses of varying length to the ten resolutions submitted by Council. Listed below are brief comments summarizing the responses arranged into four categories representative of the type of response received.

A — Recommendation taken under advisement: These are the most positively received responses.
- Brief #2 — Public education on methods of pest control: timely, will be seriously considered
- Brief #3 — Establishment of a Pesticide Control branch: desirable, need acknowledged, but low budgetary priority
- Brief #5 — Illegal Hunting: concern shared but difficulty encountered in enforcement particularly by the judiciary

B — Government disagrees with Council recommendation:
This can happen when problems are perceived differently or when the government feels that enough is being done to resolve the problem.
- Brief #4 — Hunting of Timber Wolves: introduction of 1980 legislation base fully resolved the problem at this time.

C — Mixed responses, where the responsible department or agency perceives a problem but, for a variety of reasons, is not in the position to respond.
- Brief #10 — Provincial Land Use Policies: it seems that half of the recommendations in this brief list a sensitive spot and the Department avoided response. For the remainder, the responses are more in keeping with category A.

D — Responses that indicate a lack of adequate research on Council's part:
- Brief #1 — Curriculum on Insect Pest Control in Manitoba: we are recommending action to a Committee on which we ourselves are represented.
- Brief #6 — Noxious Weed Act: many of the concerns expressed in this brief are either unfounded or are well known to the government. A little touching bases with the responsible agency would have permitted the shortening of the list of concerns to the most significant ones.

Brief #7 — Manitoba Environmental Network of Government Agencies: see comments for Brief #1.

Brief #8 — Preschool Environmental Education: This is being done. How come we don't participate?

Brief #9 — Coordinated Planning of Environmental Education: Similarly to #6, a bit of checking would have prevented us from recommending actions already undertaken by the government.

In conclusion, it can be said that half of our recommendations were accepted by the government and to varying degrees, will be acted upon. It is hoped that, now that we have a full time co-ordinator on staff, sufficient checking will be possible to save the Council from expending energies on stating the obvious, thus improving the proportion of significant recommendation and increasing our stature as an advisory body.

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# Canadian Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations

## Diane F. Malley

This year's national meeting of the Canadian Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations (E.N.G.O.) was held at the Katimavik Conference Centre in Lac McGregor, Quebec, from May 5 - 8, 1984. These annual EMGO events are meetings of the Canadian Environmental Network. This is an informal organization of some 1000 environmental groups across Canada, which began about seven years ago. The ENGO annual meeting has in recent years been timed to precede immediately the Department of Environment's Public Consultation Meeting which was held in Ottawa this year on May 8 - 10.

The theme of the meeting was the development of an alternative (sustainable) strategy for economic development in Canada. This year represents the middle phase of a three-phase program. Last year the ENGO meeting concentrated on understanding where Canada's current economic development strategy is leading us. The next phase will be to construct an action plan to implement the alternative strategy.

The agenda for the meeting included a speech on May 5 by Geoffrey Bruce, Vice-President of the Policy Branch in the Canadian International Development Agency. May 6 was spent in workshops. On May 7, workshop reports and other business were presented at the plenary session. Michel Robert, a Commissioner of the Royal Commission on the Economic Union and Development Prospects for Canada (the MacDonald Commission) spoke about the Commission's progress. In the afternoon of May 7, participants met in regional groups with the Minister of Environment, Charles L. Caccia. On May 8, participants lobbied various government departments in Ottawa.

The workshops on May 6 dealt with the following topics: forestry, food and agriculture, energy, water and wilderness/land use. It was attempted to approach each topic from an ecocentric (ecosystem) rather than an anthropocentric viewpoint. The workshops attempted to derive principles which should guide development in each of these areas, specific objectives and action plans. For example in the water workshop several principles were identified: (a) water is a scarce resource which should be used carefully, (b) carrying capacity of a water body should dictate the types and amounts of use, (c) pollution should be controlled at source rather than at point of use of the water, (d) river basins should be considered as units.

Several aspects of the meeting are directly relevant to the Manitoba Environmental Council:

1. M. Robert in his address on behalf of the MacDonald Commission reported that of approximately 700 briefs received by the Commission in its first phase, only 20 to 30 dealt with environment and less than half of those were from organizations as opposed to individuals. Clearly the Commission requires more input on environmental issues. It will be receiving briefs until the end of July.

2. The Manitoba delegation which met with Mr. Caccia on May 7 reported environmental concerns from Manitoba, including our continuing concern about adverse impact from the Garrison Diversion scheme and our concern that environmental monitoring in Manitoba will be significantly decreased by the Environmental Management Division's abandonment of surface water quality monitoring from 83 sampling stations throughout the province.

3. On May 9, fifteen participants from the ENGO meeting met with Dr. Peter Pearse who was named in January to head an inquiry of Federal Water Policy. This will be conducted by Dr. Pearse and two other committee members who will study Canadian water resource issues and advise the federal government on long-term strategies to manage the issues within its jurisdiction. Issues of concern which I brought forward were the Garrison Diversion Unit, the reduction of surface water quality monitoring in Manitoba, the fact that the Churchill-Nelson diversion was completed without adequate pre-project study and adequate environmental impact prediction and, finally, that Canada needs more accurate analysis of the extent of contamination of the environment by such metals as lead and that such ultra- clean metals analysis laboratories should be established in Canada to perform these analyses. Pearse will release a background paper within a month called "Water — A Mainstream Issue". The inquiry will report its results by about mid 1985. The inquiry will hold public hearings across Canada during the fall and winter of 1984-85.

   I attended this meeting as a fourth and non-funded delegate from Manitoba. The other three Manitoban delegates were Bill Goddard, Ilene Orr and Ken Emberley. The report of the 1983 ENGO meeting (National Meeting of Canadian Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations, April 29 - May 3, 1983, Summary Report released January, 1984) has been placed on file with the Council.

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# Publications

## Gunter A. Schoch

Probably no other committee of Council has suffered more of a setback, due to the absence of an Executive Secretary, than the Publications Committee. The reason is simple: The Executive Secretary was also the Executive Editor, who facilitated the publication process, while it is the Committee's mandate, according to Council By-Laws, to recommend, review and approve material for publication.

However, disregarding these difficulties, the Publications Committee has made special efforts to maintain the flow of publications. Since the last annual meeting in May 1983, four Committee Meetings were conducted, while the Chairman attended also 7 Board Meetings, as well as 14 meetings with administrative and clerical staff.

As a result, our primary objective, the publication of Annual Report 11 has been accomplished. Its 900 copies were delivered on May 8th and are now in the process of being distributed. It may seem like a simple, straight-forward assignment, but with the assistance of only volunteer and temporary help, I can assure you, it was not an easy task. Its preparation took two months, followed by almost four months of reviews, editing and dealings with typesetters, printers and bureaucrats. We can only thank our lucky stars that we had Mrs. Lily Stearns as Secretarial Assistant during this period, who has done an outstanding job in bringing this project to successful completion.

Thanks to Mrs. Stearns' interest and initiative, we were also able to forward a second publication for printing. It is entitled "Crownland Designations", written by Anna Polonyi under the supervision of Dr. J.B. Nickels. It will be published in our Topics Series and is expected to be off the press within the next month.
Other publications, which are in various stages of preparation are:

- "Evolution of Legislation Affecting Wildlife",
- "Survey of Environmental Monitoring Programs in Manitoba",
- "Annotated Bibliography of Fluoride Pollution",
- "Hazardous Chemicals",
- "Southern Indian Lake", and
- "Red River Flooding".

The funds available to Council in the current fiscal year will determine which and how many of these manuscripts will actually be published in the foreseeable future. Our highest priority, of course, will now be Annual Report 12, covering the just completed business year.

In conclusion, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the following members of the Publications Committee, for their effort and support during the past six months: Miss Yong-Cha Cho, Professor Dore, Mrs. Gwen Parker and especially Mr. Timothy Fultz, who, very capably, assumed the duties of Recording Secretary for the Committee.

Last, but not least, I wish to thank the Chairman of Council, Dr. Atish Maniar, for his continuous interest in and support of the Publications Committee.

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Presented at May 12, 1984 Council Meeting

# Publications List

The following is a list of MEC publications, several of which are now out of print.

## Annual Reports

1: 1973 ( 32 pp)
2: 1974 ( 72 pp)
3: 1975 ( 54 pp)
4: 1976 ( 79 pp)
5: 1977 (110 pp)
6: 1978 ( 87 pp)
7: 1979 (148 pp)
8: 1980 (101 pg)
9: 1981 ( 88 pp)
10: 1982 ( 68 pp)
11: 1983 ( 34 pp)

## Studies

1 J.J. Keleher & K.Z. Hendin, "Manitoba Environmental Problems & Public Opinion" (1974), 4 pp

2 W.G. Leitch & J.J. Keleher, "Garrison Diversion Project Presentations" (1974), 61 pp

3 J.J. Keleher, "Manitoba Environmental Agencies and Activities" (1974), 4 pp

4 D.H. Boyd, "Impacts of the Garrison Diversion Unit on Canada" (1975), 171 pp

5 K.B. Richmond & J.J. Keleher, "Manitoba 2000: Population Size and Distribution" (1975), 130 pp

6 Ken Arenson, Chairman, "Nuclear Energy: Fact and Fantasy" (1975), 35 pp

7 H.J. Selwood, "The Winnipeg Townscape: A Survey Guide" (1975), 35 pp

8 William Bell, Chairman, "Rural Land Use Conflict: Some Solutions" (1977), 130 pp

9 W.J. Turnock, Chairman, "The Energy Issue: Demand and Supply" (1977), 162 pp

10 Alex Fedoruk, Chairman, "Manitoba Water Quality Objectives: How Far Do We Go?" (1978), 145 pp

11 Peter Aitchison, Chairman, "Trees and Pesticides: An Environmental Dilemma" (1978), 37 pp

12 Ken Arenson, Chairman, "Winnipeg 100: Alternative Futures" (1978), 112 pp

13 Rosemary Malaher, Chairman, "Environmental Education: Hope for the Future" (1979), 51 pp

14 John Jack, Chairman, "Parks for Manitoba: Policy and Practice" (1981), 48 pp

15 David Punter, Chairman, "10th Anniversary Celebration" (1982), 41 pp

## Topics

1 J.B. Nickels, Chairman, "Environmental Quality Preferences" (1982), 22 pp

2 Anna E. Polonyi, "Wildlife Designation of Manitoba Crown Lands: Problems and Conflicts" (1984), 75 pp

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# Membership

## Margaret K. Friesen

The Membership Committee is a standing committee of the Manitoba Environmental Council which recommends to the Board of Directors prospective individuals and organizations for membership. As well, it is responsible for keeping membership files up-to-date. The chairmanship of this Committee changed three times during the 1983-84 term. I would like to thank my predecessors, Mr. F. Humphries and Mr. J.F. Palamarchuk, for their efforts in chairing this Committee.

New individual members for 1983/84 are: A.G. Allan, A.F.J. Artibise, J. Brown, B. Dexter, H.A. Laine, C. McClure, J.M. Richtik, B. Silver, and J.R. Ward. New members representing organizations are: P.E. Doyle (Manitoba Medical Association), N. Eadie (Manitoba Farm Business Association), E. MacEwan (Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba), L. Milian (Manitoba Wildlife Federation), L. Norman (Junior League of Winnipeg), and S. Shewchuk (Town of Selkirk). There are presently 98 members, consisting of 69 individuals and 29 representatives of organizations. Also, of the total, 61 members are residing in urban areas, while 27 are living in rural areas.

Priorities of the Committee in the coming year will be to monitor the degree of members' participation, improve the orientation of new members and maintain and increase representation of rural areas on Council.

I wish to thank Mrs. L. Stearns for her considerable efforts in updating the membership list.

The 1984-85 committee members are: D. Blight, O. Weber, and myself.

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Presented at May 12, 1984 Council Meeting

# Membership List

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Hon. Jay Cowan
Miss Catherine Howlett
Hon. Gerard Lecuyer
Dr. Thomas Owen

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Mr. Laverne Jaeb, The Pas
Mr. E.B. Johanson, The Pas
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Dr. A.C. Maniar, Winnipeg
Ms. Jane O. Maurer, Winnipeg
Mr. Conrad McClure, Brandon
Mr. J. Michael McKernan, Winnipeg

Mr. Larry Milian, Winnipeg
Mr. W.W. Morgan, Gimli
Dr. D. Muir, Winnipeg
Mr. Wayne Neily, Winnipeg
Dr. T. G. Neraasen, Ste. Agathe
Dr. J.B. Nickels, Winnipeg
Mrs. Linda Norman, Winnipeg
Mr. Bohdan J. Palamarchuk, Winnipeg
Mr. J.F. Palamarchuk, Winnipeg
Mrs. Gwen Parker, Winnipeg
Mr. H.N.M. Patterson, Winnipeg
Mrs. Elizabeth Pawlicki, Winnipeg
Mr. Geo. P. Penner, Steinbach
Mr. Ronald Phillips, Winnipeg
Mr. Russ Phillips, Dauphin
Mr. William O. Pruitt Jr., Winnipeg
Mr. R.J. Ptashnik, Winnipeg
Mr. Gordon M. Pullan, Winnipeg
Dr. David Punter, Winnipeg
Councillor Evelyne Rees, Winnipeg
Prof. J.M. Richtik, Winnipeg
Dr. Carl Ridd, Winnipeg
Mr. J.D. Robertson, Dauphin
Dr. I.M. Rollo, Winnipeg
Mr. John L.S. Ross, Winnipeg
Prof. Basil M. Rotoff, Winnipeg
Mr. Walter Rybuck, Winnipeg
Mr. D.S. Schellenberg, Altona
Mr. Gunter A. Schoch, Winnipeg
Prof. H.J. Selwood, Winnipeg
Dr. Jennifer Shay, Winnipeg
Mr. Eugene Sheremeta, Winnipeg
Councillor Sharon Shewchuk, Selkirk
Mr. Jim Shiells, Winnipeg
Mr. Barry Silver, Winnipeg
Mrs. Donna Sproule, Winnipeg
Mr. Ron Strynadka, Thompson
Mr. Chris Sundevic, Thompson
Ms. Catherine Thexton, Balmoral
Dr. W.J. Turnock, Winnipeg
Mr. Randy Van Vliet, Winnipeg
Mr. Murray W. Wagner, Winnipeg
Ms. Jenny Rose Ward, Winnipeg
Mrs. Olga Weber, Winnipeg
Rev. Murray Wenstob, Swan River
Mr. Barry Wild, Winnipegosis

## Council Organizations

Association of Manitoba Archaeologists
Canadian Institute of Forestry
Canadian Manufacturers Association
Citizenship Council of Manitoba
Consumers Association of Canada (Manitoba)
Ducks Unlimited (Canada)
East-Man Regional Development Corporation
Entomological Society of Manitoba
Four Nations Confederacy
Home & School Parent-Teachers Federation of Manitoba
Interlake Development Corporation Inc.
Junior League of Winnipeg
Manitoba Association of Registered Nurses
Manitoba Association of Urban Municipalities
Manitoba Bar Association
Manitoba Chambers of Commerce
Manitoba Environmental Research Committee
Manitoba Farm Bureau
Manitoba Farm Business Association
Manitoba Federation of Labour
Manitoba Forestry Association Inc.
Manitoba Historical Society
Manitoba Institute of Agrologists
Manitoba Medical Association
Manitoba Naturalists Society
Manitoba Nursery & Landscape Association
Manitoba Parks & Recreation Association
Manitoba Real Estate Association
Manitoba Teachers Society
Manitoba Wildlife Federation
Manitoba Women's Institute
Mining Association of Manitoba
National Farmers Union
Norman Regional Development Corporation
Parkland Regional Development Corporation
Pembina Valley Regional Development Corporation
Selkirk — Town Council
Union of Manitoba Municipalities
United Steelworkers of America (Local 6116)
United Steelworkers of America (Local 7106)
University Women's Club of Winnipeg
Winnipeg — City Council
Winnipeg Labour Council

* * *

# Organizational Aspects
## Proposed Re-Organization of Council

Pursuant to the Organizational Review of March, 1983 and subsequent discussions by the Board and Executive, the following recommendations were approved at the December 3rd, 1983 Council Meeting and subsequently submitted to the Minister:

1. It is recommended that as of April, 1984, the Minister designate the Manitoba Environment Council as an advisory body which reports directly to the Minister; that staff of the Manitoba Environmental Council formally seconded from the Environmental Management Division, be accountable to the Manitoba Environmental Council Board of Directors through the Chairman.

2. It is recommended that the Manitoba Environmental Council be given direct responsibility for its budget and direct control over its expenditures. The funds however, will still be held, disbursed and accounted for by the Environmental Management Division administrative staff.

3. It is recommended that the Manitoba Environmental Council be staffed by two full-time employees who will function in the following ways:

   3.1 Executive Secretary

   Responsible for facilitating the overall work of production of Council briefs, studies, forums, and annual budgets.

   Works with committee chairpersons to ensure that objectives are set and work is progressing.

   Represents Council to levels of government where liaison is required. Maintains linkage to other environmental bodies, both in and outside of Manitoba.

   Responsible for facilitating the priority setting processes of Council.

   Responsible for other Council staff.

   3.2 Assistant to the Executive Secretary

   Responsible for providing research assistance to technical committees, including processing of minutes and, if necessary, draft report production, editing and publishing of reports, arranging for the program details for Council meetings, forums, etc.

   Responsible for newsletter production and editing.

   Responsible for all clerical duties of report typing, minutes, filing and Council correspondence.

   Proportions of the above duties would be decided by the Board of Directors.

   3.3 Staffing would be conducted through the Civil Service.

4. It is recommended that the Manitoba Environmental Council budget including the above staff secondments and inflation in operational costs be brought to a total level of $83,000 for the 1984-85 fiscal year as more particularly described as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| A. Staff (2 full time) | $ 50,000 | |
| B. Operations | 32,700 | (6% above 1983-84) |
| C. Total | $ 83,000 | |

5. It is recommended that the Manitoba Environmental Council continue to be provided with, at no expense to Council, all office space, services, equipment and furniture necessary for the conducting of its advisory activities.

# Nominating Committee
## Basil M. Rotoff

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Donna Blight, Dave Punter and Basil Rotoff (Chairman), submitted to Council the following slate of officers who were subsequently elected:

| | |
|---|---|
| Chairman | Dr. A.C. Maniar |
| Vice-Chairman | Dr. Diane F. Malley |
| Secretary | Dr. T.G. Neraasen |
| Publications | Gunter A. Schoch |
| Membership | Margaret K. Friesen |

# Regional Committees Chairmen

| | |
|---|---|
| Interlake | Bill Aitken |
| Pembina Valley | D.S. Schellenberg |
| Eastman | A. Aspit |
| Parkland | Barry Wild |
| Northman | E.B. Johanson |
| Westman | A. Howard |
| Central Plains | J.A. Knight |
| Winnipeg | Elizabeth Pawlicki |

* * *

# Past Council Chairmen

The first organizational meeting of the Manitoba Environmental Council was held on January 28, 1972 when various task forces were set up to establish the Council's direction and operation. The following have served as the Council's Chairmen:

1972-73 Lloyd Axworthy
1973-74 Lloyd Axworthy (to December 5, 1973)
Ken Arenson (balance of term)
1974-75 Ken Arenson
1975-76 Allen M. Lansdown
1976-77 W.J. Turnock
1977-78 Onno Kremers
1978-79 David Punter
1979-80 Rosemary Malaher
1980-81 Basil M. Rotoff
1981-82 Bill Kennedy
1982-83 Bill Kennedy
1983-84 Atish Maniar

* * *

# Finances and Administration

The Manitoba Environmental Council is funded by a legislative appropriation to the Environmental Management Division. The cost of administration services, e.g. accounting and secretarial, is largely borne by the Division.

## Financial Data

| Fiscal Year | Voted | Expended | Per Cent |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1971-72 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 1972-73 | $ 2,500 | N/A | N/A |
| 1973-74 | 18,200 | $ 7,400 | 41 |
| 1974-75 | 17,100 | 15,000 | 88 |
| 1975-76 | 15,000 | 16,200 | 107 |
| 1976-77 | 13,100 | 11,700 | 89 |
| 1977-78 | 16,300 | 15,132 | 92 |
| 1978-79 | 16,900 | 16,621 | 98 |
| 1979-80 | 16,900 | 20,432 | 121 |
| 1980-81 | 16,900 | 16,894 | 99 |
| 1981-82 | 25,800 | 27,437 | 106 |
| 1982-83 | 28,400 | 36,144* | 127 |
| 1983-84 | 27,700 | 18,558 | 66 |

* Additional funding of $7,744 was provided via Special Warrant

* * *

## Expenditures 1983-84

| Type | Amount |
|---|---|
| Real Estate | $ 173 |
| Professional Fees | 1,015 |
| Other Fees | 48 |
| Office Furniture, etc. | 122 |
| Publication Printing & Supplies | 3,082 |
| Telephone and Telegraph | 84 |
| Equipment Miscellaneous | 684 |
| Computer related services | 69 |
| Vehicles, Mileage | 196 |
| Advertising | 735 |
| Library Subscriptions, etc. (Publications) | 20 |
| Courier Services | 198 |
| Travel – Employees | 1,861 |
| Special dinners, events, miscellaneous | 1,330 |
| Subsistence – Council Members | 3,229 |
| Transportation – Council Members | 5,700 |
| TOTAL | $18,558 |

* * *

## Council Staff

Barbara Ediger – Head, Secretarial Pool until September 1983

Lily Stearns – Secretarial Assistant – September 1983 - May 1984

* * *

## Colophon


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